

*How the attacks on Pearl Harbor in 1941 and on Darwin in 1942 affect the relationship between Australia and the United States of America as well as the artwork's relevance towards the topic.*

Pearl Harbour and the Bombing of Darwin; there were very little differences between the two events, both were devastating and left a mark on the affected locations. They were both also attacked by the same group of people. However, after the bombings of Pearl Harbour and Darwin had occurred, the similarities between the two incidents was what eventually strengthened the relationship between the two countries. This was because both Australia and the United States had been greatly affected by the bombings. Many naval ships were sunk, and a few thousand people were killed due to the attacks. One of the ships that was sunk was the US ship the USS Peary. These events resulted in the two countries turning to each other for support in-order to further strengthen and protect themselves from other possible threats from potential invaders. The artwork that accompanies this essay, accurately depicts how the relationship between America and Australia was affected and because of a strong sense of mateship; grew after the bombings.

The bombing of Pearl Harbor and Darwin were considered to be massive hurdles that both America and Australia had to overcome. There are certain aspects in the sculpture that represent the relationship between the two countries. The rock underneath the two soldiers represents the problems and trials that America and Australia face together, such as the bombings that the two countries had to face and current political issues. By looking at the two soldiers, one representing America as a whole and the other representing Australia, it demonstrates how both rely on each other in times of need. When looking from the Australian soldier's point of view, it appears that he is supporting the other soldier and therefore holding him up, on the other hand, when looking from the American soldier's point of view, it looks as if the American soldier is reaching out for the Australian soldier in-order to prevent him from falling off the rock. From the front view, it appears that both soldiers are balanced as they are supporting each other and therefore are staying up-right. This is a demonstration of how there are times when America will rely on Australia for support and other times, Australia will rely on the U.S for support; in-order to overcome hurdles. Which evidently shows that America and Australia must continue to have that supporting foundation in-order to stay in 'balance' or in other words, be politically strong.

The sculpture at first just looks like two soldiers supporting each other on a rock, and as mentioned before, this is simply not the case. These soldiers can represent many different things, meaning that this piece does not only refer back to the war and WW2. But it is also very much relevant to nowadays society, symbolising many different issues; for example, such as politics. Like reading a good novel, it is most of the time about reading between the lines and interpreting the story in different ways. It is the same interpretation we are getting out of this, because although the two figures are represented as soldiers, they can either be interpreted as two individuals or two different countries while both pursuing the same idea. Though the question still stands, "how is the topic that the sculpture is trying to convey relevant to today's society?" The answer is that even though America and Australia are not fighting in another World War, we are still in alliance and are supporting each other, by helping to provide resources of trade and assistance where it is due. Overall as mentioned above, the sculpture was crafted in such a way in-order to enable viewers to interpret it differently, while still conveying the same idea.

Before the sculpting had begun, research was conducted in-order to ensure that is an accurate representation of the topic. The research was conducted both via primary sources and secondary sources which also included internet sources. The primary source that was conducted came from reading stories of some locals who lived through the attacks. For the bombing of Darwin, I read the stories of Mervyn Ey and Wendy James. For the bombing of Pearl Harbor, I read the story of Chick

Takara and some other local children. The research conducted via the secondary sources came from fellow teachers of CSC, who had an accurate understanding of the topic of WW2 and the events prior. They helped to give me a basic understanding of the bombings including information such as why they occurred and the reasons for the Japanese not seeing their plans through. Lastly, there was also general information researched obtained from several internet sites in-order to develop a better understanding of what happened on the days of the bombings. Such sites included extra information on the effects of the bombings on Australia and America, how they impacted the two countries as well as the aftermath of the bombings. I also researched how Australia and America's relationship has strengthened because of this. Overall, there was a great variety of sources that were examined and researched prior to the sculpting of the artwork. This allowed me to develop a better understanding of the relationship between Australia and America since the bombings, as well as providing an idea of the best way to represent the two countries relationship through art.

The bombing of Darwin and Pearl Harbor will never be forgotten, as these were the events that shaped our two countries into what they are today; allies that support each other and that have developed a strong relationship which will help us overcome any upcoming hurdles that will be thrown our way. As previously mentioned, the relationship status between America and Australia is still very relevant to this day. Politically America and Australia are still in strong alliance with each other and still offer and provide each other assistance in times of need; as well as supporting each other no matter what the circumstances are.

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